

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 902

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH US ID

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO SECRETARY'S PEKING VISIT

1. JAKARTA PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO PEKING, WITH FRONT PAGE REPORTS IN ALL DAILY PAPERS. COMMENT ON THE TRIP WAS MODERATE, CONSISTING OF SIX EDITORIALS IN FIVE NEWSPAPERS DURING THE WEEK

2. THE PROSOVIET MERDEKA IN ITS OCT 21 EDITORIAL ASKED WHAT THE US HAS ACHIEVED IN ITS RELATIONS WITH PEKING, POINTING OUT THAT CHINA HAS SOLD MORE PRODUCTS TO THE US THAN THE US HAS EXPORTED TO CHINA AND THAT WHILE VARIOUS US SENATORIAL GROUPS, SCIENTISTS AND OTHERS TOOK TURNS VISITING MAINLAND CHINA, FEW CHINESE GROUPS VISITED THE US. THE FOLLOWING DAY MERDEKA OBSERVED THAT WHILE THE COMMUNIST CHINESE STYLE OF DIPLOMACY IS PLAIN AND FRANK AND ATTRACTIVE TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DIPLOMACY ACCORDING TO WESTERN STANDARDS IS MERELY COMPOSING LANGUAGE RHETORICALLY. IT SAID "KISSINGER, AS THE ARCHITECT OF THE DETENTE WHO CONDENMS WAR AND WHO SAID THAT THE US CHINESE RELTIONS

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ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE US, MUST NOW PROVE HIS

DIPLOMATIC WORDS AND DEEDS. THE WORLD NOW KNOWS WHO IS ON THE OFFENSIVE SIDE AND WHO IS ON THE DEFENSIVE SIDE."

3. LEADING DAILY KOMPAS TOOK A MORE BALANCED VIEW ON OCT 22, REMARKING THAT COMMUNIST CHINA HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR ITS REATIONS WITH TH US, WHICH DERIVES FROM ITS NEED TO MATCH THE SOVIET UNION. NOTING THAT THE VISIT STRENGTHENS EACH PARTY'S POSITION TOWARD THE SOVIETS, KOMPAS COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE US HAS SAID MANY TIMES THAT IT WILLNOT EXPLOIT THE PEKING-MOSCOW ENMITY, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE US DOES NOT BENEFIT FROM IT. KOMPAS OBSERVED THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT LATER THIS YEAR WILL NOT HAVE THE EXTRAORDINARY EFFECT OF THE NIXON VISIT BUT IT WILL CERTAINLY GLAMORIZE FORD'S IMAGE FOR THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

4. THE INDEPENDENT SINAR HARAPAN COMMENTED THAT THE EMERGENCE OF CHAIRMAN MAO HIMSELF FROM SEMI SECLUSION TO TALK WITH KISSINGER UNDERSCORES THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CHINESE FEAR THAT THE SOVIETS MAY USE THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY DETENTE WITH THE US TO INCREASE MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST THE PRC.

5. THE GOI-CONTROLLED MUSLIM PAPER PELITA NOTED THAT PRC LEADERS SEE CLEARLY THAT THE US SOVIET DETENTE WORLS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE SOVIETS, AND THAT THROUGH DETENTE THE USSR IS EXPANDING ITS INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD.

6. THE ALI MURTOPO PAPER BERITA YUDHA DOUBTED THAT MUCH CAN BE GAINED FROM THE PRC BY THE US NOW. POLITICALLY, IT SAID, THE PRC IS STILL TAKING A HARD LINE, AND ECONOMICALLY THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF LARGE-SCALE TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BERITA YUDHA SAID THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KISSINGER'S ASSETS ON HIS FIRST TRIP TO PEKING AND ON THIS EIGHTH VISIT BECAUSE THE US IS NOW NO LONGER DISTRUSTED BY ITS ALLIES AND THE SOVIETS, AND THE US NOW HAS OPPORTUNITY TO PROFIT BY PERSUADING THE CHINESE TO TAKE A MORE REALISTIC VIEW OF THE WORLD. NEWSOM

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